THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY); (a) The new economic policy includes positive changes in trade policy which aim to create an environment that will enable exportg to increase at a rapid pace.

In fact, India's exports have increased by 20 per cent in dollar terms in 1993-94 and by more than 18 per cent in dollar terms in 1994-95.

(b) NO, Sir.

(c) Some of the significant measures initiated by Government to boost exports are:

— Enlargement of EPCG Scheme

— Expansion & liberalisation of advance licenses.

— Additional incentives for ECU un'ts in EPZs.

— Expansion of SIL List.

— Pruning of negative list of imports

— Reconstitution of Board of Trade.

Seizure of Smupled Gold and Silver at Sea Port-, in Gujarat 95.

6012. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a') the-quantity and the value of smuggled gold and silver seized at sea ports in Gujarat State during the year 1994-95 and till date;

(b) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(c) the concrete measures adopted by Government [1]o check the smuggling of gold and silver etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR] MURTHY); (a) No seizure of gold and silver has been affected at sea ports in the State of Gujarat during financial year 1994-95.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Field formations, are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of gold and silver. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned witn detection and prevention of smuggling.

Reduction in import duty on Aluminium

6013. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all household utensils, except pressure cookers, are exempt from the levy of excise duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that pressure cookers which are energy efficient and an item of mass use is used atleast in 34 million households in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the manufacturers of aluminium circle, main raw material in its manufacture have hiked its price by 40 per cent;

(d) whether it is also fact that it is not feasible to import aluminium circles as there is 40 per cent import duty therein;

(e) whether Government propose 'o reduce the import duty to 10 per cent to provide relief to the manufacturers; and

(f) by when such a decision is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Generally, utensils made of metal are exempted from excise duty. But excise duty is leviable on tableware, kitchenware of glass or ceramic. Pressure cookers are subjected to excise duty of 10 per cent.

(b) Such information is not maintained.

(c) Information in this respect is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

(d) to (f) Import duty on aluminium circles is 40 per cent which is at par with other articles of ferrous and non-ferrous metal. There are some representations for reduction of import duty on aluminium circles. These representations are under ex-amination .

रिलायंस उद्योग लिमिटेड पर आयकर छापे

6014. श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सुप्रसिद्ध रिलायंस उद्योग लिमिटेड ग्रुप के विभिन्न परिसरों में आयकर विभाग ने हाल ही में छापे मारे हैं, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और वहां जब्त की गई चीज़ों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) और (ख) आयकर विभाग ने हाल में रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड ग्रुप की कोई तलाशियां नहीं ली हैं ।

Amount outstanding against Tata Unisys

6015. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to a news report published in the 'Indian Express' of April 21, 1995 regarding violation of rules by the Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs to favour a private firm and state:

(a) whether it is fact that Tata Unisys owes Government Rs. 2.93 crores as duty on goods the company had imported between 1989 and 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that CBEC Chairman's son is working with Tata Unisys;

(c) if so, whether the company in connivance with the CBEC Chairman, attempted to defraud Government for revenue of Rs. 2.93 crores; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to penalise the company for its attempted defraud by using a Government official?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V.. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. However, recovery of the amount has been stayed by the Customs Excise & Gold Control) Appellate Tribunal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Investment made by UTI in Telco

6016 SHRI DILTP SINGH JUDEV Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the news-item published in the Investment's Guide of April, 24, 1995 concerning investments made by UTI. in Telco and State: